

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A pad for improving a geosynthetically reinforced segmental retaining wall system, the pad comprising:
- a resilient material for being disposed between block layers in a segmental retaining wall, the pad for transferring tensile load from a geosynthetic soil reinforcing material to the segmental retaining wall block face.
- 10 2. The pad of claim 1, wherein the resilient material is shaped to substantially match the shape of the horizontal surface of the blocks.
3. The pad of claim 1, wherein the resilient material comprises one or more of the following:
- 15 polyvinyl chloride (PVC);
- a needlepunched nonwoven geotextile; or
- a polymeric foam applied to a scrim.
4. A pad for reinforcing a segmental retaining wall, the pad comprising: a resilient material that has a thickness sufficient to substantially fill voids and uneven surfaces between adjacent horizontal surfaces of retaining blocks.
- 20 5. A block pad that is composed of a planar material comprising: a polymeric material either membrane-like, or constructed as in a nonwoven needlepunched product, or scrim with foam covering.

6. A pad for insertion into the space between courses of segmental block wall to fit the block shape and that provides a frictional connection between a soil reinforcing geosynthetic and the wall.

5 7. A pad that provides an interlayer of dissimilar material to the concrete block that reduces cracking of the blocks once installed because of its thickness and compressibility.

8. A product that improves the system efficiency of the block/geosynthetic combination, causing less soil reinforcement to be needed, or lower strength soil reinforcement to be used.